

"I was going to go military police, but infantry is similar, and they are more on the front lines, like law enforcement here and I said that's what I want to do," said Barnett.

With her mind made up, Barnett isn't looking back, only forward to a future full of possibilities and breaking barriers for women in the military.

Barnett will head to Fort Benning, Georgia to start training. In the meantime, she says she's going to celebrate her history-making moment by going fishing this weekend.

HONORING EDWINA LYONS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Edwina Lyons from Scottsville, Kentucky.

It can often be difficult to find employees who truly exemplify service, loyalty, integrity and commitment but Edwina has showcased all of these and more during her thirty-four years of service at Dollar General.

Edwina joined Dollar General on May 20th, 1982. She began in the Rework department at the Scottsville Distribution Center and grew her career and her influence through her hard work and dedication to excellence, eventually becoming the Senior Manager of Merchandise Support for the company. The length of Edwina's tenure has only been matched by the depth of her commitment to the Dollar General family.

What is truly inspirational about Edwina is the positive impact she has had on the employees at Dollar General and her community. When she departs in April, her passion for doing the right thing and her deeply rooted values will be missed.

I congratulate Edwina on an exceptional career and wish her well on her next chapter. Undoubtedly, she will continue to be of service to others.

BROADBAND IS CRUCIAL FOR MINNESOTA AND THE COUNTRY

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Blandin Foundation for their dedication to strengthening rural communities in Minnesota. One such way they are making a difference is through various programs, including their outstanding program which aims to increase access to high-speed broadband internet. I am happy to support the Minnesota Broadband Coalition's vision: "Everyone in Minnesota will be able to use convenient, affordable world-class broadband networks that enable us to survive and thrive in our communities and across the globe."

Like the Blandin Foundation, I too believe that increasing and expanding broadband in Minnesota is of the utmost importance. Back in February, I had the opportunity to voice my support for broadband expansion at the Minnesota Broadband Conference.

Over the past several decades we have seen the rise of internet and technology due to

its ability to improve people's lives. As a result of internet access, more businesses are emerging, new jobs are being created, and more educational opportunities abound.

However, many rural communities in Minnesota do not have consistent access to broadband, preventing their communities from thriving and keeping them at a competitive disadvantage. I commend the Blandin Foundation for their efforts to ensure that all communities have the opportunity to prosper and grow.

HONORING WAVERLY WOODSON DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as young soldier in the Korean War, I was honored to follow in the footsteps of many Blacks in the military who exhibited extraordinary heroism and patriotism abroad despite facing discrimination and challenges at home. I would not be where I am today if it were not for my service in the Army. During our annual celebration of Black History Month, I would like to honor an unsung hero from West Philadelphia named Waverly "Woody" Woodson, Jr., who served as a young medic of World War II.

This summer will mark the 72nd anniversary of the historic D-Day invasion of World War II. Nearly three-quarters of a century later the event is still revered by all Americans as an example of our military's strength and bravery. However, the life-risking efforts of thousands of Black veterans from the war have gone unnoticed.

The 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, a unit of all-Black soldiers, landed in France ahead of the main invasion force. The battalion's job was to deploy and man an aerial barrage of massive helium-filled balloons to protect the American forces from enemy bomber airplanes. The balloons forced enemy pilots to fly their planes at higher altitudes to avoid becoming entangled and made it harder to effectively aim their bombs.

Among the 320th was Waverly Woodson, who enlisted in the Army on Dec. 15, 1942, during his second year of his pre-medical studies. He did not wait to be called by the draft; rather he decided to sacrifice his career, comfort and life for his country and the world. Woodson's enlistment placed him in the Anti-Artillery Officer Candidate School but he was told upon completion of his training that there was no spot open for him. Instead, he was sent for medic training with the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion. He was one of five medics aboard a Landing Craft Tank that left England on June 5, 1944, for a ninety-mile journey towards Omaha Beach.

Waverly's voyage on June 6, 1944, was commenced by a violent charge towards the shore. Along with his unit, Waverly valiantly stormed Omaha Beach in the midst of mines, mortar shells and heavy ammunition, with eyes fixed upon the mission of freedom that lay ahead. As a medic, Army Corporal Waverly Woodson Jr. risked his life to save the crippled and bleeding out American warriors clinging to their last thread of consciousness. He patched and resuscitated dozens if not hundreds of soldiers while he himself was

wounded by the shrapnel ripping away at his legs. Woodson's determined efforts directly influenced the result of this battle.

Though he was segregated into a racially organized regiment, he saved the lives of numerous soldiers regardless of their skin color. Woody would later say, on that day "they didn't care what my skin color was" and obviously he did not care either. He was bonded to his men by the camaraderie that only war can provoke and a steadfast allegiance to defending the greatest country in the world. His dedication broke down racial divides that day, and this is history that truly deserves recognition.

Woodson was previously nominated for the Medal of Honor, but he never received it. Instead, he was given the Bronze Star, the fourth-highest military honor. There exists no record of what happened to his nomination for the Medal of Honor. Not one of the thousands of Black soldiers who served in World War II received a Medal of Honor in the immediate wake of the war. Something is detrimentally wrong with that.

However, we can always remedy the mistakes of our past. In 1995, I was honored to bring Waverly Woodson and a group of African-American World War II veterans to the floor of the House Chamber and recognize these unsung heroes for their forgotten service. As a veteran myself, I was moved to see that their sacrifice was no longer overlooked but there is more work that we must do.

Black History Month must continue to play a pivotal role in helping all of us remember, preserve, and honor the accomplishments and contributions of the Black leaders of America. The annual celebration serves as a poignant reminder of how much Black history has been lost, forgotten, or in some cases, deliberately erased from the record. The nation's commemoration of Black history is not for the Black community alone, but for our collective and cohesive recognition of American history as a whole.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS—ELIZABETH ORTIZ

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elizabeth Ortiz from Katy, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Science and Technology leaders.

Elizabeth attends Cinco Ranch High School and is one of 13 high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. This program was designed for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school, as well as to support their aspirations of working in a science or technology field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from

June 29th through July 1st. Elizabeth was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress thanks to her dedication to her academic success and goals of pursuing science or technology. We are proud of Elizabeth and all of her hard work, and know she will make Katy proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Elizabeth for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists. Keep up the great work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMMIGRANTS' ASSISTANCE CENTER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Immigrants' Assistance Center (IAC) in New Bedford, Massachusetts on their 45th anniversary, and to thank the Center for its continued service to the community.

Since its establishment in 1971 by members of the local Portuguese community, the IAC has helped immigrants throughout southeastern Massachusetts adjust to their new lives. The IAC is committed to empowering immigrants by providing them with the opportunity to successfully transition into new routines in the United States, while also preserving and maintaining the heritage of their home countries. Through their tireless work, the dedicated staff at the IAC has helped countless individuals overcome the language, economic, and cultural barriers that many immigrants and non-English speakers face upon arriving in their new communities.

Throughout its history, the IAC has also encouraged immigrants to pursue active roles in our communities. By connecting immigrants with civic advocacy groups, religious and charitable organizations, and other community service opportunities, the IAC has inspired numerous immigrants to become passionately involved in helping those who need it most.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Immigrants' Assistance Center as it celebrates its 45th anniversary. The support provided by the IAC has greatly improved the quality of life for many residents of southeastern Massachusetts. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing the Immigrants' Assistance Center well in its continued endeavors and I look forward to hearing more about its accomplishments in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE ALBRECHT-SNELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Katie Albrecht-Snell for being named a 2016 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the

Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2016 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 640 business leaders and growing.

Katie serves as the manager of corporate citizenship at Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Through her work, she is able to lend a helping hand to those in need and show others the gratification in doing so. Katie's caring and giving spirit is not only part of her professional life. She is a dedicated volunteer in the community and from a young age has always shown a passion for helping others. This year, Katie also became a mother and always finds time to be with her husband and newborn.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Katie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Katie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2016 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

TRIBUTE TO JIM BECK

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jim Beck, a resident and community leader from Bakersfield, California, on his retirement as the General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency. Over the past three decades with the Kern County Water Agency, Jim has been instrumental in the fight to ensure our community receives the water we need.

Jim received both his Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He joined the Kern County Water Agency nearly 32 years ago, moving from an agency chemist to Manager of Improvement District No. 4 to Assistant General Manager. In January 2005, Jim became the General Manager, undertaking an extremely important role for Kern County in California's extremely challenging world of water.

The Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) is the second-largest participant in the California State Water Project (SWP), with an annual allotment of about 1 million acre-feet of water that is delivered to 19 public water agencies through KCWA and provided to serve domestic and irrigation water supplies to families, farms, and businesses located in Kern County. As General Manager, Jim has fought hard to ensure that Kern County gets the water we deserve—the water that we contract and pay for.

The position of General Manager of KCWA is not for the faint of heart. Jim has led the agency through the most recent and currently ongoing catastrophic drought in California—

the worst on record. Federal and state laws and regulations have exacerbated drought conditions resulting in significant water supply reductions from the SWP and to Kern County. Notwithstanding Jim's soft-spoken and quiet demeanor, when it comes to water advocacy, Jim has been a vociferous and unwavering ally in efforts to reform these laws and regulations to help ensure our communities get the water they need.

At my request, Jim travelled to Washington, D.C., to testify before the House Committee on Natural Resources on the importance of legislation to reform the laws and regulations that are making it impossible for the Kern County Water Agency to get its full water allocation off the SWP. And, with Jim's and his staff's expertise, legislation was drafted that united all the differing factions in California's complex water system (north and south, east and west, Federal and state) that passed the House in multiple Congresses.

Recognizing the challenges on the SWP, Jim did not stand idly by as surface water supplies became more unreliable. As General Manager, he oversaw significant capital projects at the Kern County Water Agency, including water purification and conveyance infrastructure, to ensure the water that Kern County does receive either from the SWP or Mother Nature is not lost. In addition, as General Manager, Jim oversees one of the largest groundwater banks in California, which has been invaluable as the drought continues.

Jim has been at the forefront of the fight for Kern County farmers and families. Drive up and down the Central Valley and you will see signs that say "Food Grows Where Water Flows." The water that Jim and KCWA have gotten for Kern County, part of California's "Salad Bowl," ensures that our community, state, and nation have access to healthy fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts and that the southern Central Valley continues to thrive.

Jim exemplifies how one can serve their community with quiet fortitude and dedication over the years. Jim and I have been in the trenches together on California water, and I have enjoyed working with him and his no-nonsense style as we fought to protect Kern County water. After many years in public service, I know that Jim looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Diane, and two sons, Chandler and Braden. Jim will be missed in the world of Kern County and California water, but I salute his lifetime of service and on behalf of our county and state, I wish him the best as he begins this new chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 37th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act and to recognize the long-standing U.S.-Taiwan relations. For the past 37 years, the Taiwan Relations Act has served as the cornerstone of the friendship between the United States and Taiwan that has been a mutually beneficial economic, cultural, and strategic relationship.